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Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Fifty-third session
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Item 3 of the provisional agenda
Listing, classification and packaging

Entries assigned special provision 117 and 123

Transmitted by the Council on Safe Transportation of Hazardous Articles (COSTHA)*

Introduction

1. COSTHA has identified eight (8) entries in the Dangerous Goods Table where the application of special provision (SP) 117 and/or 123 should be reviewed and modified.

2. SP 117 is used in the Model Regulations to indicate a particular entry is regulated only when consigned for sea transport, while SP 123 is used to indicate a particular entry is regulated when consigned by air or sea. These special provisions are useful when considering multimodal shipments where a material may be regulated while in transport by one mode yet unrestricted while in transport by another mode.

3. In reviewing the Dangerous Goods List, SP 117 is assigned to seven (7) entries, indicating the materials are regulated only when transported by sea. However, when these entries are compared to the Dangerous Goods List in the ICAO Technical Instructions, six (6) of them are identified as forbidden for transport by air.

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2017–2018 approved by the Committee at its eighth session (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/100, paragraph 98 and ST/SG/AC.10/44, para. 14).

Discussion

4. The seven entries that are assigned SP117 are tabulated below. Additionally, an indication of whether the material is permitted for air transport per the ICAO Technical Instructions is indicated:

UN Number	Proper shipping name	Regulated by Air?
UN1372	FIBRES, ANIMAL or FIBRES, VEGETABLE burnt, wet or damp	Yes – Forbidden
UN1387	WOOL WASTE, WET	Yes – Forbidden
UN1856	RAGS, OILY	Yes – Forbidden
UN1857	TEXTILE WASTE, WET	Yes – Forbidden
UN2216	FISHMEAL (FISH SCRAP), STABILIZED	Yes – Forbidden
UN3360	FIBRES, VEGETABLE, DRY	Yes – Forbidden
UN3496	BATTERIES, NICKEL METAL HYDRIDE	? – ICAO Special Provision A199

5. Six (6) of the entries are forbidden for transport by air. The seventh entry (UN3496) has minimal regulatory requirements by air. However, these requirements include:

(a) packaging the batteries to prevent:

(i) Short circuit, and

(ii) Unintentional activation.

(b) Inclusion of the words "Not restricted" and the special provision number "A199" on the air waybill when an air waybill is used.

6. It can be argued whether UN3496 is regulated for transport by air or not. However, the inability to consign and transport under the ICAO Technical Instructions the first six entries listed above certainly suggests the materials are regulated for transport by air.

7. COSTHA believes the indication in the Dangerous Goods List in the Model Regulations that the materials are regulated only by sea is a misleading and potentially unsafe approach. Instead, SP 123 should replace SP 117 for the first six entries noted above.

8. In addition, it was noted by Germany that the entries UN3166 and UN3171 have both now been included in the ADR/RID. Therefore, it is no longer appropriate for SP123 to be assigned to these entries.

Proposal

9. COSTHA proposes to revise the application of SP 117 and SP 123 to the following entries, as follows:

UN No.	Name and description	Special provisions
(1)	(2)	(6)
UN1372	FIBRES, ANIMAL or FIBRES, VEGETABLE burnt, wet or damp	~~117~~ 123
UN1387	WOOL WASTE, WET	~~117~~ 123
UN1856	RAGS, OILY	29 ~~117~~ 123
UN1857	TEXTILE WASTE, WET	~~117~~ 123
UN2216	FISHMEAL (FISH SCRAP), STABILIZED	29 ~~117~~ 123 300 308
UN3166	VEHICLE, FLAMMABLE GAS POWERED or VEHICLE, FLAMMABLE LIUQID POWERED or VEHICLE, FUEL CELL, FLAMMABLE GAS POWERED or VEHICLE, FUEL CELL, FLAMMABLE LIQUID POWERED	~~123~~ 356 388
UN3171	BATTERY-POWERED VEHICLE or BATTERY-POWERED EQUIPMENT	~~123~~ 388
UN3360	FIBRES, VEGETABLE, DRY	29 ~~117~~ 123 299